

Message Text

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11
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 HEW-08 PA-03 PRS-01

USIA-12 SS-15 L-03 EB-11 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 /087 W
----- 114812

R 180742Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6688

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ELAB, RP
SUBJECT: FILIPINA NURSES DISPUTE, PHILADELPHIA

REF: A) STATE 127808; B) MANILA 7328

1. LABATT HAS UTILIZED REF A AS BASIS FOR DISCUSSING
SUBJECT DISPUTE WITH LABOR UNDER SECRETARY INCIONG AND
(MORE RECENTLY) SECRETARY BLAS OPLE. IN DISCUSSION
JULY 16, OPLE RECALLED THAT COMPLAINTS OF DISCRIMINATION
BY FILIPINAS PARTICIPATING IN US-PHIL MEDICAL EXCHANGE
PROGRAM HAAVE ARISEN BEFORE. IN HIS OPINION SO
LONG AS PROGRAM CONTINUES IN PRESENT FORM SIMILAR EMOTIONAL
REACTIONS FROM SUCH PARTICIPANTS CAN BE EXPECTED FROM TIME
TO TIME. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT WAGE DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN
FILIPINAS AND AMERICAN NURSES HANDLING SIMILAR TASKS
EXPLAINABLE IN TERMS THEORETICAL VALUE OF CLASSROOM INSTRU-
TION PROVIDED FORMER. HOWEVER, HIS ENQUIRIES
HAD LED HIM TO CONCLUSION THAT IN GENERAL NURSES, IN CON-
TRAST TO DOCTORS WHO PARTICIPATED, DID NOT "VALUE" THEIR
INSTRUCTION UNDER PROGRAM.

2. HE SAID THAT FOR THIS REASON HE WOULD RECOMMEND HERE
THAT THE NURSING PART OF THE MEDICAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM BE
ELIMINATED AND THAT HENCEFORWARD NURSES WORK IN THE US UNDER
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STANDARD WORK CONTRACT (H-2) VISA ARRANGEMENTS DOCTORS, HE

OBSERVED, CONTINUED TO APPRECIATE TRAINING BENEFITS AVAILABLE THROUGH EXCHANGE, AND HE SAW NO PRESENT PROBLEM ON THAT SIDE.

3. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE WAS A POOL OF NURSES EAGER TO WORK IN THE STATES UNDER ONE ARRANGEMENT OR ANOTHER AND THAT ELIMINATION OF EXCHANGE OPPORTUNITIES WOULD DISSAPPOINT THOSE HOPING TO QUALIFY FOR THIS IN FUTURE. HOWEVER, HE FELT THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER IF CHANNEL FOR NURSING WORK OPPORTUNITIES WERE LIMITED TO H-2 ARRANGEMENTS.

4. SECRETARY OPLE HAD PREVIEWED THE FOREGOING THOUGHTS DURING A LUNCHEON AT MALACANANG ON JULY 14 IN CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE WHO, WITHOUT OBJECTING TO CONTEMPLATED CHANGE, EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO ABRUPT INTERRUPTION IN FLOW OF NURSES THAT WOULD CAUSE HARDSHIP BOTH FOR NURSES AND FOR MEDICAL FACILITIES IN THE U.S.
HAMILTON

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